Kennedy Assassination Conclusions Absurd

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By FRANCIS X. O'NEILL JR.

The recent conclusions or lack of conclusions released by the Select Committee on Assassinations could be used by consumer advocate and government watchdog Ralph Nader as a prime example of waste of government time and money . . . $5.8 million of hard earned taxpayers money.

It was expended to come up with a report that is so lacking in evidentiary value, future generations will wonder at our capacity to place belief in any findings of subsequent congressional committees.

Is it unreasonable to expect congressional committees to act in the best interest of the electorate and the government in following their quest for truth? Is it in the best interest of the government to release such ridiculous findings or does it, during this time of tense international diplomacy, give credence to the belief of many non-Americans that some of our congressmen are political hacks and ambitious opportunists? Is it the prerogative of our elected officials to disregard the findings of not only one bipartisan presidential commission but the findings of many subsequent inquiries and investigations by the Justice Department and the FBI, all of which reaffirmed the original findings proffered by the Warren Commission that (1) there is no credible evidence that Lee Harvey Oswald was a part of a conspiracy and (2) three shots were fired at President Kennedy from the Texas School Book Depository Building, two of which struck him; unless there was substantial findings of fact to the contrary?

I'm sure that if one would look long enough, he would find conflicting ideas in some remote corners of this world as to who killed Jesus Christ, Abraham Lincoln, and, for that matter, Robert Kennedy. However, when the smoke of controversy has cleared the irrefutable, truth always shines forth. The facts cannot be altered in this point of time. Mr. and Mrs. U.S. Citizen are the final judges of fact and the conclusion reached by the Warren Commission from the evidence submitted to it are irrefutable.

For one to believe in a conspiracy one must be ready to accept the premise that the most intelligent and dedicated men in government, in all three branches, for the past 15 years have been hoodwinked by a group or a single person, so celestially clever and so infinitely brilliant that all traces of a conspiracy have vanished. For the committee to place all its eggs in one basket, so to speak, on a tape recording of contestable origin wherein "experts" reach a conclusion that it is "possible" a fourth shot might have been fired — as possible indications of a conspiracy — is absurd and demeans the entire legislative branch of our government.

Pictures can be doctored, tape recordings erased or added to, and rumors take on the semblance of fact over the years, but the statement of eye witnesses immediately subsequent to the events themselves has, since the time of English Common Law, been interpreted in most cases as the best evidence. Any of us old enough to remember the tragic events of Nov. 22, 1963 can recall with precise detail where we were, what we were doing and what was said when we first heard of the presidential killing.

Roy Kellerman and William Greer, the two Secret Service Agents in the car with President Kennedy that fateful day, emphatically, specifically and irrevocably stated to me, six hours after the assassination, that three and only three shots were fired. They heard them most distinctly. They repeated this testimony to me a few days later during interviews at the White House. They were unequivocal in those statements.

These men were trained investigators, used to hearing gunshots and in a position to best determine the direction and the number of shots fired — but most important they were there at the time. The majority of the persons interviewed by the F.B.I. in what was the most comprehensive, meticulous investigation in its outstanding history, concurred that only three shots were fired. True, some persons in Dealey Plaza that day did say they thought there could have been four shots; however, the hard core, the professionals, agree on three shots.

If, and I use the term merely to illustrate a point, an assassin was on the grassy knoll, as hypothesized by the committee, and fired at the president, is it illogical to assume such a cleverly conceived conspiracy would have an expert shot at this location? And if not illogical, would not this expert, since this presumably would be his only purpose in being there, have indeed shot the president if he fired?

I can testify that no such bullet ever struck President Kennedy. I saw the president's body, assisted in taking it from the casket at Bethesda, was present during the entire autopsy and, at first hand, examined his wounds. There was no wound on his body that could conceivably under any condition come from any source other than above and in back of the president.

This is not hearsay or the result of pseudo-scientific examination. This is fact. I was there, and for someone to theorize that the president could have been shot from anywhere other than the rear is not worthy of further discussion.

The facts simply do not bear out such preposterous conclusions. Truth is singular in nature and no matter how bitter a pill it is for some people to swallow, the truth will never change. Oswald killed Kennedy — there is no credible evidence of a conspiracy. Facts indicate only three shots were fired.

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